

CHAPTER 5F. TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS

Section 5F.01 Introduction

Support:

- 01 The provisions for highway-rail grade crossing traffic control devices are contained in Part 8 and in other Sections of this Manual.
- 02 Traffic control for highway-rail grade crossings includes all signs, signals, markings, illumination, and other warning devices and their supports along roadways either approaching or at highway-rail grade crossings. The purpose of this traffic control is to promote a safer and more efficient operation of both rail and highway traffic at highway-rail grade crossings.

Section 5F.02 Grade Crossing (Crossbuck) Sign and Number of Tracks Plaque (R15-1, R15-2P)

Support:

- 01 In most States, the Grade Crossing (Crossbuck) (R15-1) sign (see Figure 5F-1) requires road users to yield the right-of-way to rail traffic at a highway-rail grade crossing.

Standard:

- 02 **The Crossbuck (R15-1) sign shall be used at all highway-rail grade crossings, except as otherwise provided in Section 8B.03. For all low-volume roads, Crossbuck signs shall be used on the right-hand side of each approach. If there are two or more tracks, the supplemental Number of Tracks (R15-2P) plaque (see Figure 5F-1) shall display the number of tracks and shall be installed below the Crossbuck sign.**
- 03 **A strip of retroreflective white material not less than 2 inches in width shall be used on the back of each blade of each Crossbuck sign for the length of each blade, at all highway-rail grade crossings, except those where Crossbuck signs have been installed back-to-back.**
- 04 **A vertical strip of retroreflective white material, not less than 2 inches in width, shall be used on each support at passive highway-rail grade crossings for the full length of the front and back of the support from the Crossbuck sign or Number of Tracks plaque to within 2 feet above the ground, except on the side of those supports where a STOP (R1-1) or YIELD (R1-2) sign or flashing lights have been installed or on the back side of supports for Crossbuck signs installed on one-way streets.**

Section 5F.03 Grade Crossing Advance Warning Signs (W10 Series)

Standard:

- 01 ~~Except as provided in Paragraph 2, a Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10-1) sign (see Figure 5F-1) shall be used on all low-volume roads in advance of every highway-rail grade crossing.~~

Option:

- 02 ~~The Grade Crossing Advance Warning sign may be omitted for highway-rail grade crossings that are flagged by train crews.~~
- 03 ~~The W10-2, W10-3, and W10-4 signs (see Figure 5F-1) may be used on low-volume roads that run parallel to railroad tracks to warn road users making a turn that they will encounter a highway-rail grade crossing soon after making the turn.~~

Standard:

- The Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Advance Warning (W10 Series) signs shall be placed in conformance with Parts 2 and 8 of this Manual.**

Section 5F.04 STOP and YIELD Signs (R1-1, R1-2)

Standard:

- 01 **The use and application at passive highway-rail grade crossings on low-volume roads of Crossbuck Assemblies with YIELD (R1-2) signs or STOP (R1-1) signs shall comply with the provisions of Section 8B.04.**
- 02 **At all highway-rail grade crossings where YIELD or STOP signs are installed, Yield Ahead (W3-2) or Stop Ahead (W3-1) signs shall also be installed if the criteria for their installation in Section 2C.36 is met.**

Section 5F.05 Pavement Markings

Guidance:

~~01 Pavement markings at highway-rail grade crossings should be used on paved low volume roads, particularly if they are already deployed at most other highway-rail grade crossings within the immediate vicinity, or when the roadway has center line markings.~~

Standard:

Pavement markings at highway-rail grade crossings shall be placed in conformance with Parts 2 and 8 of this Manual.

Section 5F.06 Other Traffic Control Devices

Standard:

01 Other traffic control devices that are used at highway-rail grade crossings on low-volume roads, such as other signs, signals, and illumination that are not in this Chapter, shall comply with the provisions contained in Part 8 and other applicable Parts of this Manual.

Figure 5F-1. Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Signs and Plaques for Low-Volume Roads

